some portion is still single lane; if so, whether Government have any plan to make it double lane; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Ahmedabad-Delhi MG line has already been converted into the broad gauge.

(b) The 8th Five Year Plan was over on 31.3.1997. The funds allocated for this work during the 8th Five Year Plan was Rs. 584.48 crs.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A survery for doubling of this line has been taken up and is expected to be completed by December, 1999. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

New Railway Zonal Headquarters at Bilaspur

1536. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, of late, decided to set up a new Railway Zonal headquarter at Bilaspur, in compliance with the pressing demand of the people of Chattisgarh region;

(b) if so, the details of the infrastructure to be created for the purpose and the cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details and cost of the infrastructure have not been worked out so far.

(c) Government have decided to set up a new Railway Zone with headquarters at Bilaspur. Its inaugural function has been held on 20.9.1989. An Officer-on-Special Duty has been posted at Bilaspur. Sanction has also been accorded to the creation of 41 workcharged posts for different departments.

Railway line from Delhi to Tashkent

1537. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for a rail line from Delhi to Tashkent is pending in the Ministry;

(b) if not, whether the Ministry purpose to consider such proposed in future;

(c) to what extent such a rail line would help trade with Central Asian and other countries; and

(d) the impendiments blocking such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (A) No Sir.

(b) The Ministry is not empowered to consider such a project as it has international involvements.

(c) and (d) Details regarding benefits and impediments will be available only after a detailed study.

Conversion of Rajkot-Junagarh-Veraval and Gandhidham-Bhuj rail lines

1538. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: